

IN THE CLAIMS:

1.—14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for engaging a tubular body in a wellbore, comprising the steps of:

running an overshot tool into the wellbore on a working string, the overshot tool comprising:

an elongated housing having an inner surface and an outer surface, the outer surface forming an annulus within the surrounding wellbore;

a gripping ~~apparatus~~ member having an inner surface and an outer surface, the inner surface of the gripping ~~apparatus~~ member being dimensioned to receive the item in the wellbore, and the outer surface of the gripping ~~apparatus~~ member being slidably movable along the inner surface of the housing;

a hydraulically actuated piston disposed along the inner surface of the housing, the piston being operatively connected to the gripping ~~apparatus~~ member, and being slidably movable within the housing in response to a hydraulic pressure differential between the inner surface of the housing and the annulus so as to selectively move the gripping ~~apparatus~~ member between a first position in which the item is gripped and a second position in which the item is released; and

a tubular stop ring, the stop ring having an inner diameter that is smaller than the outer diameter of the body being retrieved from the wellbore, and being disposed between the piston and the gripping member;

tagging the top of the tubular body to be retrieved on the stop ring; and

pulling the working string so as to cause the gripping ~~apparatus~~ member to frictionally engage and grip the tubular body.

16. (Currently Amended) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

injecting fluid under pressure into the working string and connected overshot tool, thereby releasing the gripping apparatus member from the tubular body.

17. (Currently Amended) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 16, wherein the gripping apparatus member comprises at least two radially arranged slip members.

18. (Currently Amended) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 17, wherein the gripping apparatus member comprises at least three radially arranged slip members, each slip member having an upper tang for connecting to the piston.

19. (Currently Amended) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 16, further comprising wickers along the inner surface of the gripping apparatus member for frictionally engaging the body in the wellbore when the overshot tool is pulled.

20. (Original) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 17, further comprising:

at least two ramp surfaces on the inner surface of the housing; and

at least two ramp surfaces on the outer surface of each of the slip members dimensioned to nest and move slidably along the at least two ramp surfaces on the inner surface of the housing.

21. (Original) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 16, wherein the piston has an inner diameter dimensioned to receive a wireline-deployed string shot therethrough.

22. (Original) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 17, wherein the housing comprises:

a central body portion, the inner surface of the central body portion having the ramp surfaces that receive the gripping member; and

an upper body portion, the inner surface of the upper body portion slidably receiving the piston, and the upper body portion having at least one port.

23. (Original) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 22, wherein the elongated housing is dimensioned to swallow an elongated fish.

24. (Original) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 23, wherein the elongated housing further comprises a tubular extension disposed between the central body portion and the upper body portion.

25. (Original) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 24, wherein the fish defines a mud motor having an elongated shaft and a motor housing.

26. (Original) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 24, wherein the fish defines a joint of parted pipe.

27. (Original) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 23, wherein the piston further comprises:

a lower shoulder in fluid communication with the inner surface of the housing;
and

an upper shoulder in fluid communication with the annulus by means of the at least one port.

28. (Original) The method for engaging a tubular body of claim 20, wherein each of the slip members substantially recedes into the housing when the slip members nest within the at least two ramp surfaces, thereby enabling release of the tubular body.

29. (New) An overshot tool for retrieving an item from within a wellbore, the overshot tool comprising:

a housing comprising an inclined inner surface;
a gripping member disposed in the housing and comprising an inclined outer surface which mates with the inclined inner surface of the housing;
a piston disposed in the housing and coupled to the gripping member, the piston disengaging the gripping member from the item when actuated by fluid pressure.

30. (New) The overshot tool of claim 29, wherein a smallest inside diameter of any of the housing, gripping member, or piston is substantially the same as the outside diameter of the item.

31. (New) The overshot tool of claim 29, further comprising a sub for coupling the housing to a working string, wherein a smallest inside diameter of any of the housing, gripping member, or piston is the same or greater than a smallest inside diameter of the sub.

32. (New) The overshot tool of claim 29, wherein a smallest inside diameter of any of the housing, gripping member, or piston is substantially constant along a length of the overshot tool.

33. (New) The overshot tool of claim 29, wherein the overshot tool does not comprise a nozzle for actuating the piston.

34. (New) The overshot tool of claim 29, wherein the housing and the gripping member each comprise a plurality of inclined inner surfaces.

35. (New) The overshot tool of claim 29, further comprising a seal configured to engage an outside surface of the item.

36. (New) The overshot tool of claim 29, wherein the gripping member is actuatable among an engaged position, a partially engaged position, and a disengaged position.

37. (New) The overshot tool of claim 36, wherein the gripping member is actuatable from a partially engaged position to an engaged position by pulling the housing.

38. (New) The overshot tool of claim 36, further comprising a biasing member which biases the gripping member toward the engaged position.

39. (New) The overshot tool of claim 29, wherein the housing is long so that it may receive a long portion of the item in order to engage a second portion of the item.

40. (New) The overshot tool of claim 29, further comprising wickers disposed along the inner surface of the gripping member.

41. (New) The overshot tool of claim 29, further comprising a stop ring, the stop ring: having an inner diameter that is smaller than the outer diameter of the item being retrieved from the wellbore; and being disposed between the piston and the gripping member.

42. (New) A method of using an overshot tool to retrieve an item from a wellbore, comprising:

providing the overshot tool, comprising a housing, a gripping member, and a piston;

running the overshoot tool into the wellbore on a workstring until a portion of the item is received into the housing, thereby actuating the gripping member to a partially engaged position;

pulling the workstring, thereby actuating the gripping member from a partially engaged position to an engaged position; and

injecting a fluid through the workstring, the overshoot tool, and the item, wherein the fluid will be choked by the item, thereby actuating the piston to disengage the gripping member from the item.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

running a second tool through the overshot tool on a wireline.